Listing of claims:

1.-8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) A method for transmitting data packets between a first communications network node and a second communications network node of an communications optical network, comprising:

    reserving a data channel; transmitting a first data burst having aggregated data packets on the data channel;

    retaining the data channel for a consecutive transmission phase after transmitting the first data;

    transmitting additional data packets between the nodes during the consecutive transmission phase; and

    terminating the connection only when the data channel is at least partially required for transmitting a second data burst between a third communications network node and a fourth communications network node of new connection.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein a request to reserve transmission capacity for the new connection is sent by a reservation-requiring network node via switching devices of the network to an end node, wherein the third node is the reservation-requiring network node, and wherein the fourth node is the end node.

11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein transmission capacity for the new connection is only reserved during the consecutive transmission phase.

12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein a disconnect signal is transmitted via the switching devices present in the devices present in the first connection to the first node.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a disconnect signal is transmitted via the switching devices present in the devices present in the first connection to the first node.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein transmission capacity is

reserved according to a two-way reservation optical burst switching principle via a request and an acknowledgement.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the transmission capacity is reserved for bidirectional connections.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein to reserve the transmission capacity, the disconnect signal is sent to the first and second nodes.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein a disconnect signal is only sent when an acknowledgement is issued by the end node receiving the request to reserve the transmission capacity.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein a disconnect signal is only sent when an acknowledgement is issued by the end node receiving a request to reserve the transmission capacity.